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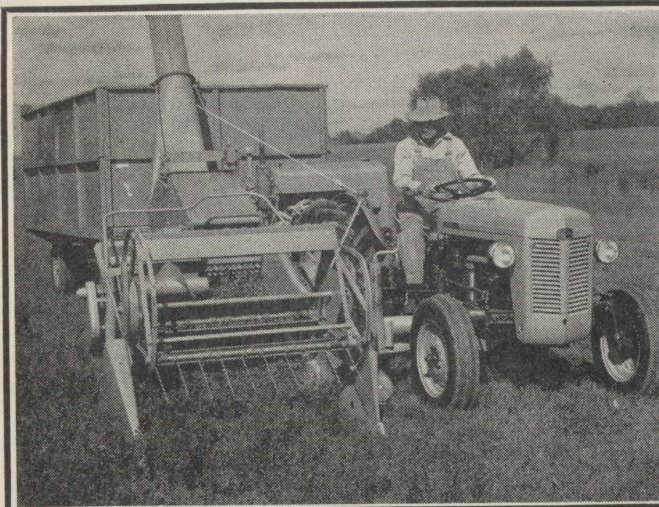
APRIL 1956

F A R M . S C H O O L . H O M E

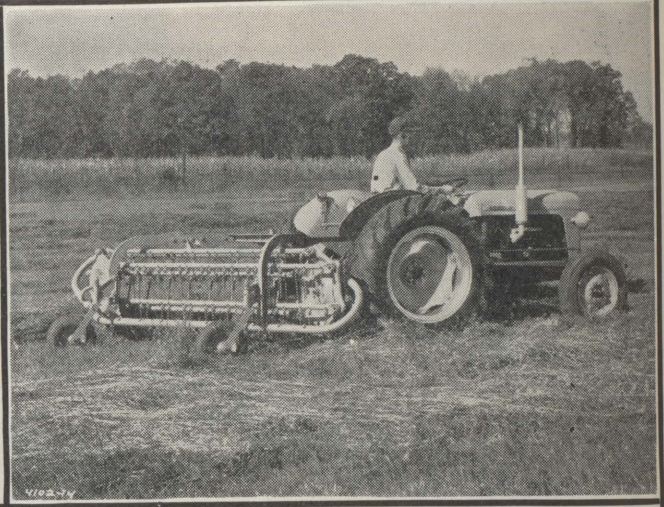


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Public Broadcasting Service Favoured by Farmers

With the Fowler Commission presently reviewing the state of radio and television broadcasting in Canada, it is worthy to note the position taken by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, as spokesman for the 450,000 farmers it represents.

The Federation supports the basic principle that in the fields of both radio and television, there should be one national system to provide broadcasting as a public service to the people of Canada. The C.F.A. heartily approves the present pattern in Canada where the C.B.C. is made responsible for this broadcasting policy with the thriving group of privately-owned stations included as part of the national system. The Federation believes it is not possible to plan and carry out a national broadcasting system in the public interest on any other basis.

The objectives of a national broadcasting system as outlined in a previous royal commission in 1948 are, in the C. F. A. view, still valid to-day and especially for television. These objectives are as follows:

- (1) To provide an adequate coverage of the entire population.
- (2) To provide opportunities for Canadian talent and expression of Canadian ways.
- (3) To successfully resist Canada's absorption into the general U.S. cultural pattern.

Tribute to private broadcasting is paid in the Federation policy statement. The C.F.A. emphasizes that, in both radio and television, private stations have a very definite and valuable role to play. Community service was cited as being particularly beneficial which could not possibly be effective with nationally owned stations alone.

Separate Board Opposed

Groups of private broadcasters, supported

by other interests of several types have strongly advocated an independent board to regulate all broadcasting, public and private. The C.F.A. vigorously opposes this view. The organization's policy statement points out that with two broadcasting systems in Canada, public and private, each deserving of impartial treatment, no truly national public broadcasting service could survive. It is assumed that regional and national private broadcasting networks, for economic reasons, would seek direct affiliation with U.S. networks for much of their programme material.

Division of programs into those suited to private broadcasting and those suited to public stations might also be advocated, the C.F.A. brief states. Such an attempt would lead to higher costs for the national system and a deterioration on both sides of the balanced broadcasting fare in all fields which the Canadian public has a right to expect.

In television, the C.F.A. states, the extremely high costs make it obvious that the concept of a single publicly controlled system of broadcasting must be maintained. Commercial sources of advertising revenue must be combined with the still heavy expenditure of public money necessary to provide a truly Canadian broadcasting service.

The C.F.A. believes that the government should establish 5-year grants for broadcasting in the public interest. These grants should be general enough to avoid any danger of failure in the objectives of a truly national service and permit long-term planning.

Special appreciation to the C.B.C. for farm broadcasts was expressed in the C.F.A. statement. Complete weather forecasting, market and farming information services, and other programs like Farm Forum suited to the needs of rural people were given as examples.

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Mechanization, more often than not, means higher operating costs for small and medium size farms. Can smaller farmers benefit from

Farm Machinery Co-ops?

by J. T. Davidson

Since 1944 the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture has had a co-operative tractor policy. Under this plan community organizations and groups are assisted in the purchase of tractors and tractor equipment. This article is a summary of research study into some of the problems of organization and operation of farm machinery co-operatives in that province.

FARMERS' investments in machinery and equipment in 1951 averaged more than \$3000 per farm, three times the amount in 1941. Since 1951 the trend has continued and the end is by no means in sight.

For some time now, co-operative purchase of farm machinery has been advocated as a way to keep investments reasonable for small farmers. Despite publicity the idea has not caught on and especially in Eastern Canada where crops are more diversified than in the West.

Valuable information on the problems involved in the co-operative use of equipment in Eastern Canada — what makes them a success or failure — is provided in a study recently completed by G. C. Retson and V. A. Heighton. Two articles on farm machinery co-operatives in Nova Scotia, written by these men, appear in recent issues of the *Economic Annalist*, a Canada Department of Agriculture publication. Following is a summary of some of their conclusions.

Problems of Organization

At first most of the co-operative machinery clubs were set up by a sponsoring agency as a service to its members. Managers of co-operative stores and others with business experience often found themselves acting as club secretaries. Many of these clubs were weakened by two forces. They tended to lean too heavily on the sponsorship of the parent organization and were subjected to all the problems associated with a large and scattered membership.

Other clubs were set up independently with the sole purpose of the co-operative ownership and operation of farm equipment. The strength of these groups is that they have had to depend on the initiative of at least a few individuals and have greater freedom in the selection of members.

All machinery co-operatives have had to find ways to avoid or surmount the following difficulties.



- (1) The individualism of many farmers who seem to prefer to operate their own complete line of equipment no matter the cost.
- (2) With no set procedures to follow, clubs have had to develop largely by trial and error without benefit of research or experienced help from extension workers. Lack of specific information on organization and pitfalls to avoid, causes many farmers to hesitate.
- (3) Some of the general recommendations presently available stress complicated administrative details and elaborate financing and operating procedures. The machinery co-operative is then apt to appear unsuited to the small farmers needs.
- (4) Friction among members, even bickering among close friends and neighbors, can result if a machine is busy on one farm when urgently needed on another member's farm.
- (5) Farm machinery co-operatives may lack clear understanding of how machinery purchases are financed, how operational and maintenance costs are paid for, and other costs shared equitably.
- (6) In some co-operatives members may be careless with or abuse the machines, increasing expenses.

Large Co-ops or Small?

In Nova Scotia, machinery co-operatives vary in membership from 4 to 34 farmers. While a large membership keeps shares in machines very low, there is much more conflict over the use of equipment. To keep disagreements to a minimum, most large clubs make only limited purchases of equipment. Operations where timeliness is not

usually so important like ploughing, threshing, silo-filling, woodcutting and seed cleaning are favoured thus limiting the variety of machinery purchased.

Officials of larger clubs were observed to be burdened with complex organizational problems and additional work in bookkeeping and collection of accounts. In only a few cases did anyone receive even a small salary for services rendered. There is a tendency in large clubs for much time to be lost in locating equipment and in transportation from farm to farm over a scattered area. Less care in operation of the machines and less promptness in return to the central storage point was also noted in the study. Members of large clubs tended to be critical of purchasing policies. They claimed machines were often too large to be used efficiently in the fields of small farmer members of the co-operative.

The researchers conclude that some of the problems involved in larger clubs might be overcome in smaller clubs. To reduce administrative complications, there is a tendency for small clubs to consist of only four to seven close-by friends and neighbors who get along well and are used to working together. Agreement on use of machines, provisions for maintenance, and charges to cover operational expenses are more easily arrived at in a small group. There is also a tendency to reduce record keeping to a bare minimum.

The study indicates that successful small clubs involve farmers operating about the same type and size of farms with similar needs for machinery. Machinery purchases are more diversified too in small clubs including equipment where timeliness is important. The small total acreage involved and closer co-operation helps prevent differences from arising.

Small clubs are criticized in the report for reducing administrative procedures to the point of impairing service and efficiency. Individual members of small clubs have to pay out more money for shares in machines. However this point is balanced by the fact that members in small clubs are more conscious that they are part owners and accept greater responsibility for proper care of the machines.

Small Co-ops Seem Best

The researchers conclude that the development of small co-operative machinery clubs should be encouraged. They feel the most effective way to stimulate the co-operative use of farm machinery would be to emphasize the advantages of a small membership and the consequent simplicity of organization.

However, while they commend the flexibility of small clubs, they point out that administrative procedures are often too informal. They recommend that the following points be kept in mind when a small co-operative is organized.

- (1) The secretary of the Club should be paid at least a small salary for the many services he renders.
- (2) Hourly rates should be paid by members for the use of machines. Rates should be high enough to pay for administration charges, operating expenses, minor repairs and maintenance. Separate hourly rates for each item of equipment should be established.
- (3) One member should be put in charge of maintenance and be a paid operator if required to run the machine on another member's farm or if custom work is done on other farms in the area.
- (4) Provision should be made for sharing costs of major repairs and overhaul in a way agreeable to all members.
- (5) Purchases of new machines should require the agreement of all members.
- (6) Financing of shares for new machines should be the responsibility of individual members. The Club should avoid being a credit-procuring agency.
- (7) The Club should arrange to hire special machines as required, as a service to its members.
- (8) Where farms are small to medium in size, the Club should vary from a maximum of seven down to four members. Where farms are larger, the most desirable arrangement might be for two or three farms to share equipment.
- (9) To avoid possible disagreements, the small Club should avoid mixing small and large scale farmers in the same organization. Limit membership to the same kind of farms.
- (10) Members of the Club should live in the same neighborhood with a two mile radius or less. In three of the most successful Nova Scotia Clubs, the greatest distance equipment has to be moved is 1/4 miles.

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Credit Unions

A Dynamic Idea

At the present time there are no active credit unions among Quebec's English-speaking rural people. The Journal has prepared this review to increase understanding of the development and importance of this co-operative credit movement.

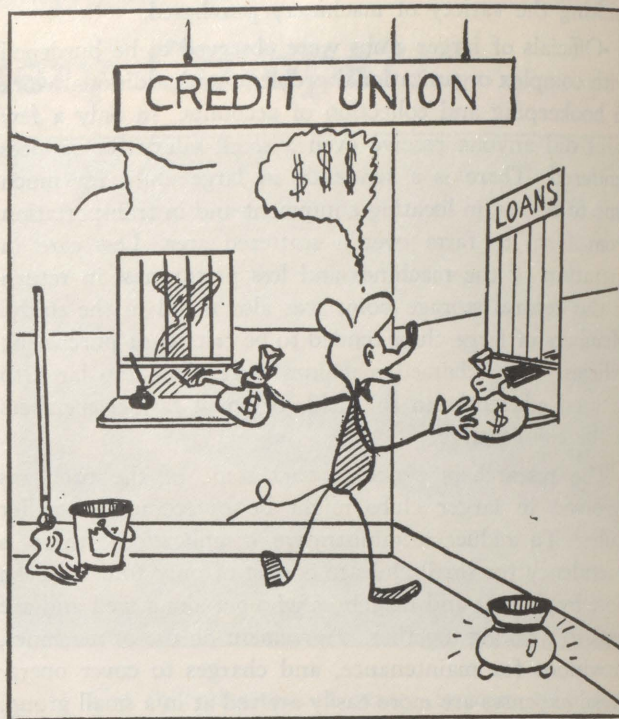
MORE THAN 50 years ago Alphonse Desjardins, the father of co-operative credit societies in North America, established the first of his famous people's banks or "caisses populaires" at Levis, Quebec. By 1907 there were three people's banks legally constituted under the Quebec Co-operative Syndicates Act of 1906. By 1925 there were 122 "caisses populaires" representing more than 30,000 members mostly in rural parishes. To-day nearly 800,000 people use the services of Quebec's people's banks. They are still largely in rural parishes but in late years have spread to large urban centres in the province as well.

As far back as 1907, Desjardins aimed to have the idea of co-operative credit adopted in other provinces. At that time a private Bill respecting "Industrial and Co-operative Societies" was introduced in parliament on his insistence. In 1908 it was passed by the House of Commons but defeated in the Senate by one vote. It was not until 1930 that there were any co-operative credit societies established in Canada outside of Quebec.

Desjardins was a zealot and not content to let his idea go unpromoted outside his native province. In 1909 we find the quiet philosophical Desjardins in Boston, Massachusetts teamed up with the most unlikely of people, wealthy urbane Edward A. Feline, a business man of radical mind bent on increasing the purchasing power of the common man. Written into the Massachusetts credit union act passed the same year was provision for a wide range of membership groupings among them "employees of a particular store or other business establishment." This was to become the dominant basis for credit union organization in the United States.

To this day basic operations of Quebec's "caisses populaires" and the credit unions, now found in this province and all other provinces of Canada, reflect the differences in concept of Desjardins and Feline. The Desjardins' people's banks are based on the encouragement of thrift with a solid credit source when needed by members. The "caisses populaires" of Quebec are truly people's banks used extensively for savings accounts. Eighty percent of the credit granted to members is secured by mortgages. The basic philosophy is to encourage thrift among the people, not spending.

"Save While You Spend"



The American credit union movement reflects the basic ideals of Feline. He desired to free men from the bondage of the money lender and boost purchasing power of the people through higher wages and mass credit buying. At the same time Desjardins' influence is still there too. The credit union movement also encourages savings. Members are expected to buy credit union shares regularly, and leave this money invested in the credit union. In this way they build up their savings. The share money is in turn loaned out again to members as short term credit for personal uses or credit buying. A good credit union member in this tradition is at the same time a spender and a saver.

Back to Canada

It was not until 1930 that the first credit unions on the American pattern were introduced into Canada. The rebirth of the credit union movement has been phenomenal with its greatest successes, in late years, recorded among industrial unions, and employee associations. This "imported from U. S. A." credit union movement has also flourished in rural areas where there has been strong co-operative development especially in Western Canada and among the fishermen on both coasts.

To-day there are some 2,300 of these credit unions, industrial and rural, with a combined membership of more than 700,000. Even in Quebec, the stronghold of the "caisse populaire" we find some 35,000 credit union members in locals affiliated with the Quebec Credit Union League.

The co-operative credit societies first introduced into North America by Desjardins can be said to flourish in Canada after being transformed in the U.S.A. and imported back into this country. Including the membership of Quebec's "caisses populaires" more than 1,500,000 Canadians are presently served through their own co-operative credit societies.

Features of the Credit Union

1. They are established among a group of people with a strong bond like a farm organization, a rural community, a church, a labour union, or some other well-defined association.
2. Being co-operative associations, credit unions have an excellent record of self help when members are faced with difficulties or when tragedy strikes.
3. Members are encouraged to build up their savings by investment in credit union shares. As an inducement to saving, most credit unions aim to pay 3% interest on shares. The members are also encouraged to borrow and keep their money in circulation.
4. Credit union policies aim at high turn-over of capital. Members are discouraged from withdrawing savings to make purchases. They borrow money from the credit union, pay cash for the purchase, save on interest payment by avoiding store time-payments, and receive discounts for cash.
5. To encourage borrowing the rate of interest is kept low and the term of repayment as short as possible. Most loans are small (average \$250-\$400) and monthly repayments usually spread over 1 year. The interest rate is 1% per month on the unpaid balance which in terms of simple interest works out to 6½ percent per annum, considerably less than the rate for time-payments.
6. Members receive loans from their credit union on their character and need alone. No chattel or real-estate mortgages, or co-signers of notes are required. An elected board of fellow members has to approve each loan. This feature has a strong self-disciplinary force on the members. Rarely do they try to borrow more than they can conveniently repay and there is a great tendency to avoid becoming delinquent in repayment. Losses in credit unions are almost negligible.
7. The control and administration of credit unions is in the hands of the membership assuring fair treatment, efficiency, and service.
8. Most loans are of the kind often needed to consolidate present time-payment credit, and to pay balances owing on purchases of automobiles and trucks, furniture and clothing, general household or farm business expenses, medical and dental expenses, or financing of vacations.

9. All loans are insured so that if a borrower dies his heirs are not obliged to pay off the loan. The insurance provides for repayment of the loan automatically and usually also doubles the money in credit union shares.
10. Patronage dividends are paid to those who use the credit union services by borrowing money. After provisions are made for education, and advertising, administration costs and interest on shares paid, the money left over after a year's operation is declared as a rebate on the interest paid by each member. In a flourishing credit union where money turn-over is high (that is most of the credit union's money is out on loan most of the time) the patronage dividend may run as high as a 15 percent rebate on interest paid.

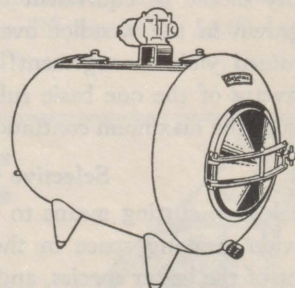
Canadians spend \$380 million dollars a year on milk and 200 million dollars on soft drinks. In the United States they drink thirty-nine times more soft drinks than milk. Forty ounces of milk cost 22 cents here; the same amount of soft drinks cost 26 cents, and forty ounces of beer cost 46 cents. Who says that milk is too expensive?

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The Economics of Woodlot Management

by Edward Pogacnik *

The author says we can easily double production from our mixed-forest farm woodlots. On good soil, with a reasonable climate we could grow more than a cord per acre per year instead of the $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cord which is usual. Wood is in great demand and supplies close to mills less each year. Better farm woodlot management is now important. He shows how this can be done without resorting to expensive changes in methods.

IT IS MORE important for woodlot owners to increase timber production than to bet everything on a price increase. To achieve higher production is not difficult at all, and not costly either. We should do something about it and soon.

What we have to do is to create conditions in our woodlots which permit the greatest number of trees to grow as fast as possible. The basic idea is to create soil, air, light, and humidity conditions which most favour the existing or desired types of trees. Trees should be given the opportunity to grow fast, produce sound wood, and regenerate themselves — forever.

Most of our farm woodlots contain trees of all ages with lots of young growth. The easiest and most economical way of cutting trees in these forests is to remove a certain number of trees each year over part or over the entire area. The amount of wood that is removed annually should be equivalent to the amount of wood that is grown in the woodlot over the same period. This is *sustained yield management*! A good tree-farmer should be aware of the one basic rule of all forestry economics: "assure the maximum continuous growth on a given area."

Selective Cutting

Selective cutting means to cut out the "wolf trees" to provide growing space in the woodlot for the development of the better species, and the removal of the undesirable trees. If this cutting does not exceed the growth in the lot — then this is an efficient way to manage a farm woods on a sustained yield basis. By proceeding in this way we will have left in the woodlot only healthy, well developed fast growing trees. Increased production, and



A "wolf tree" — Note how the heavy branching interferes and crowds its better-formed neighbours.

vigorous young growth soon repay us for the effort of weeding out the undesirable trees.

What sort of trees should be removed first? Most of our woodlots are cluttered with old, sick, branchy trees which hinder regeneration and suppress their neighbors. These are the so-called "wolf trees." From our own observations, we can say more trees, particularly young ones, are killed in this part of Canada by "wolf trees" than by all pests, fire, and windfall combined.

We have to get rid of these "wolf trees" whether we make some money out of them or not. We should cut trees when we observe absence of or stunted undergrowth beneath them. A tree which keeps back five or six healthy young trees which have reached a height where further growth is made difficult or impossible by its branches should be classified as a "wolf" and removed.

Of course all dead, damaged, dying, or sickly trees should also be removed. Young vigorous growth will soon take their places. After awhile the farmer gets to recognize that some of the trees left look alright but do not seem to grow as they should. They have stopped growing sound timber. So out they go too.

Deformed and mutilated trees should also be removed. Sometimes, however, if such trees are healthy otherwise they will be left for a time in order not to open up the stand too much. We must avoid letting in too much wind, light, or sudden frost.

Points to Keep in Mind

It is in the farmers' interest to consult a trained forester before he decides what to do in his woodlot. Here we enumerate a few basic points to keep in mind.

- With an axe or paint gun, blaze trees to be cut at breast height and at the root.
- After cutting check to make sure all trees marked were cut and that unmarked trees aren't being cut.

*Dr. Pogacnik is a specialist in forestry economics and farm Woodlot Management with Canada Paper Company, Windsor Mills, P. Que.

- Try to imagine beforehand what the stand will look like after it is cut. Be sure to remove enough trees to assure space and proper growing conditions for the rest. If the stand appears open enough, leave it alone except to remove obvious dying or sickly trees.
- Make sure no space in the woodlot is left unused. Trees should be growing well or seedling trees becoming established.
- See to it that no tree which has stopped growing for any reason uses space which could be better used by vigorous healthy trees.
- Learn when a tree — although ripe for cutting — should be left to protect younger trees from wind damage.
- Cut hardwoods when they appear to put more weight on their limbs than on their trunks.
- Estimate how many cords per acre of softwood and of hardwood is just right for your particular woodlot conditions.
 - If the woodlot is too old, too dense, or has a high proportion of big trees, there will be too many cords per acre. The annual growth of marketable wood will be lower because the soil can grow only so much and no more.
 - If the stand is too open, the yield of wood will be too low. Wind and frost may retard or damage young trees. Shrubs may fill in open spaces and the few well-grown trees will grow in width instead of height.
- Leave some tall trees to protect young trees and act as "trainers" to force them to grow straight and tall to reach sunlight. Well developed vigorous trees will produce better seed resulting in healthier regeneration.

Why should we pay less attention to trees than to animals? Trees should be treated individually on a tree farm like animals on an ordinary farm. Under exactly the same conditions on the same soil, trees of the same species behave very differently. Those which do not grow well should make room for others which will.

It cannot be argued that this sort of management is expensive. It pays twice or three times what it costs in a very few years and much more as time goes on.

Research Shows Antibiotic Helps Produce More Pigs

An extra pig or two per litter may result when the diet of the mother sow is supplemented with an antibiotic during her gestation.

Dr. R. F. Kelley, associate professor of animal husbandry at VPI, passes this word along from U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

In the USDA tests, the extra pigs were due to birth of more live pigs and better ability of the pigs to survive until weaned. The use of aureomycin (the antibiotic used) in the gestation ration neither increased the number of embryos nor the birth weight of the pigs.

Antibiotics have been widely tested and have proved highly successful as additives to the rations of growing animals, but results of research with swine at the USDA Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., have been among the first positive evidences of the value of antibiotics during the reproductive period of animal life.

Several tests have indicated some beneficial carry-over effects in chicks hatched from eggs of hens fed on an antibiotic-containing diet. Researchers now feel reasonably sure that antibiotics produce no more harmful effects when fed to swine and poultry during the reproductive cycle than when fed to those animals during the growth period.

In the feeding trials, the gestation ration contained 15% of protein plus aureomycin — a ration that appeared in terms of number of pigs per litter (average 8) to be comparable to a gestation diet containing 17.5 to 20% protein.

Fewer Quebec hogs are in the "A" grade today than there were 25 years ago, says Harry Tremblay, federal livestock director for Quebec. Our dairy herds are good, but hogs don't get the attention that other stock does. It doesn't cost any more to produce a hog that will grade "A", and there is a price differential of \$6.00 between an "A" carcass and a "C" carcasse.

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FARM FORUM

News and Views

by Leslie G. Young
Provincial Secretary

Notes on Discussion Topics

A National Health Insurance Plan, similar to that in operation in the Swift Current Health Region of Saskatchewan, is definitely favoured by the Farm Forums in Quebec. The Forum findings on "PAYING FOR OUR HEALTH", discussed February 27th, indicated that the compulsory type of plan was favoured over the co-operative plan. While nearly all Forums approved of the voluntary feature of a medical co-op in supplying health insurance, only 6 Forums thought it better than a compulsory scheme.

Among the reasons for preferring the Swift Current type of health scheme were these: Everyone is covered; it would be cheaper per capita; increased coverage and benefits; doctors and hospitals would be assured of pay; cost is more evenly distributed over nation. Sutton Junction in Brome expressed the popular view: "We feel that the Swift Current Compulsory Plan can provide more benefits than the Ontario Co-op Plan but the co-op plan has the advantage of being the more democratic."

TRADE AND TARIFFS — Should Canadian farmers support the type of program being advanced by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade? On March 5th 36 of the replying Forums said "yes", 15 were undecided and 5 said "no". Harrington in Argenteuil answered, "We are agreed that the Canadian farmer is benefitted by GATT. Tariffs present a very serious problem and only such an organization can have a true picture of what is fair and equitable for the nations as a whole."

The Forums mentioned that GATT faces a number of problems. Listed were price supports, dumping of products, too many tariffs, surpluses, varying standards of living, exchange difficulties, enforcing of agreements, import quotas, escape clauses and too few trading countries in the GATT.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS — "Yes, we think that workmen's compensation should be used. Should be compulsory for all farmers hiring one man or more. We think the advantages of workmen's compensation outnumber any disadvantages to both employer and employee alike. Gives the employer and his family as well as the employee a sense of security. Well worth the outlay in money." This answer was given by Frost Village in Shefford when the Farm Forums were asked whether members there considered that workmen's compensation should be used by farmers. All replies indicated it would be a benefit to the farmer.

Six major reasons were given why workmen's compensation should be applied to farmers and farm workers.

1. Farmer is protected against legal liability and accident claims.
2. Employee is protected against large accident bills, and his family have some security as he receives part of his wages.
3. Might be easier to get better help on the farm.
4. There is less worry and responsibility for the farmer.
5. There will be better relations between the farmer and his help.
6. All medical expenses are paid.

However, regardless of these advantages, under the present Quebec law the farming industry and those employed in the domestic services are excluded from application of the Workmen's Compensation Act

The March 19th broadcast was a review of the accomplishments of 16 years of Farm Forum. Most groups considered the annual questionnaire and the topics list at this meeting. Various forums had speakers present as well as some entertainment in the form of sugar parties, dances and card parties. The Hudson Farm Forum had two income tax men at their meeting. Mr. McGrogan of the Federal Bureau, explained the income tax form and different points about it which were of particular interest to farmers.

Forum Whisperings

Libbytown Farm Forum in Stanstead sent word that they are preparing a picnic ground for their district this summer. The Suffield-Belvidere Forum of Sherbrooke area have collected \$18 for the Canadian Red Cross Society.

An indication of the increasing interest in Farm Forum is shown by Stanstead District which last year had four Forums and this year has seven. Two of the seven have started meeting since Christmas.

The major item of news these days are the closing parties for most Forums. Reports of these indicate that there will be lots of variety to the festivities. Some are having turkey suppers, others sugar parties, and a few dances. A good time should be had by all.

Farm Forum broadcasts have concluded for another season but not the Forum meetings in some areas. High and Low Forest in Compton report that they plan to meet at least once a month during the summer. Sometimes they show films against the side of a building. Members watch from their cars. After the films there is a meeting to keep up on the neighbourhood activity and exchange views and information.

On the provincial scene, the Annual Meeting has been set for May 26 at Macdonald College. At the time of writing the program has not been definitely planned. There are a couple of conferences to attend too. First, the Canadian Co-operative Congress in Ottawa, then the National Farm Radio Forum Conference at Gananoque, Ontario, June 3 to 6.

Secretary's Notebook

A note from Lochaber Farm Forum recently said that the whole forum expects to attend the Annual Meeting May 26. They also elected their delegates to represent their Forum. From all reports the meeting should be quite large. Many forum members are planning to forget farm work for the day to attend. It's a good time for a breather, coming as it does between seeding and haying.

We are faced with the problem of "How to keep members informed?", and it seems to me that the Annual Meeting is an ideal time to bring the membership up to date on the position of the Association. In addition to the financial report, both the president and secretary make reports to the meeting. From these the members can tell how their money was spent, what the Association has accomplished, and future plans. As well, anyone present may ask questions if some point is not clear.

Only by complete understanding of why we need money, how it is spent and what it returns, can members be expected to continue to pay their fees. The members must give guidance if the forum program is to be planned and carried out as they wish. The executive can plan an Annual Meeting for the members but they can't make it a success. It is up to Forum members to accept responsibility by electing their delegates and coming themselves.

Farm Forums Discuss Family Farm

When 10,000 farm people gather in small groups of 10 to 12 people to discuss a topic of such importance as the future of the family farm, you can expect that a summary of their conclusions will reflect fairly accurately how they feel on the subject.

That the family farm is a desirable feature of Canadian agriculture and should continue to be is expressed by 85% of the 805 Forums reporting. Twelve percent of the groups, however, expressed fear that the family-type farm will disappear unless there are economic changes or a planned policy is introduced. No Forums, as you would expect, felt that the family farm was undesirable

although a few expressed divided opinions on the possibility of the family type farm disappearing.

What is Needed?

Increased farming efficiency for a higher and more stable farm income was most often mentioned as the practical safeguard for the family farm in the future. The Forums recognize that the family farm of the future will have to be larger and more mechanized. A fair proportion also mention more intensive production on present acreage and greater diversity. There is also a feeling expressed that our best young people should be encouraged to stay on the farm.

Specific ways of assuring the family farm's future are noted in the summary of Forum findings discussed by National Farm Radio Forum. The first of these is the need for long term farm credit at a low rate of interest. Farm mechanization, groups say, calls for a greater degree of co-operation among neighbors especially in the use of machinery. Recognition that modern farming requires knowledge and skill as well as experience may be seen from the report. Improved agricultural education and extension facilities are suggested. Father-son-partnerships as an encouragement to farm youth were discussed by at least some Forums. Greater use of co-operatives for purchasing and marketing are cited.

Quite a number of the groups reporting on the topic mentioned the need for sound marketing policies to help the family farm survive. Parity and parity prices, government aid to farmers, and greater interest in and action through farm organization were also mentioned.

People unfamiliar with the Farm Forum procedure of using radio broadcasts, printed study material, small group discussion, and reporting the findings of the groups may sometimes feel this kind of education is superficial. But they would be wrong. Each group in its findings does not report all the various suggestions recorded in a summary. The important point is this. Those who participate in the program are bound to increase their knowledge and understanding. The recent discussion on the Family Farm is a case in point.

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A. C. Electric Motors

— Types and Uses —

by J. H. Cooper

Electricity the modern farm handyman is available at the flick of a switch. Electric motors require no warming-up period, are convenient and economical. Maintenance costs too are low if you select the right kind of motor for the job and install proper wiring.

THE ELECTRIC service which is supplied to most farms is single phase alternating current (A.C.). The standard frequency is 60 cycles per second, although a few districts are still being supplied with a 25 cycle frequency.

There may be isolated cases in which 3 phase power is available to farm users, but this is not usual, therefore, 3 phase motors will not be included in this discussion.

Split—Phase Start Inductor Run Motor

These motors are manufactured in fractional horsepower sizes, ranging from 1/60 to 1/3 horsepower. They may be used to operate such machines as small churns, emery wheels, fanning mills etc., where the starting load is not heavy. These motors draw a very high starting current (five to seven times the rated current), so they should not be used to power such machines as water pumps or air compressors where the prolonged heavy starting current would cause overheating and motor failure. Frequent starting of the motor may also cause overheating.

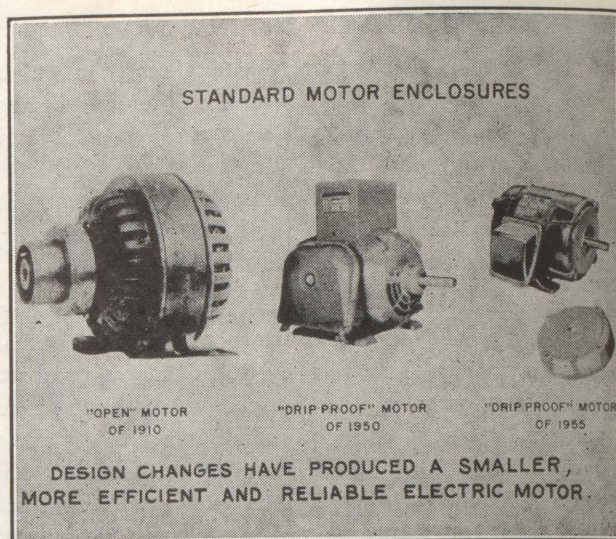
Split-phase motors are comparatively low in cost. They are quite satisfactory, and, if properly used, will give long and trouble-free service. Their direction of rotation may be changed by inter-changing the starter coil leads.

Capacitor Start Induction Run Motors

Characteristic of this design is a higher starting torque with reduced starting current as compared to the split-phase motor. They are recommended for machines where the starting torques may be considered from intermediate to high, such as cream separators, feed grinders, water pump etc. They are available in horsepower ranges from 1/8 to 3 h. p. Operating voltage is 110 to 220 volts; Motors 1/2 H.P. and larger should be connected to the 220 V source. Their cost is somewhat higher than the split-phase type.

Capacitor Start—Capacitor Run Motors

The phase shifting that occurs in the capacitance circuit causes such motors to run as two-phase motors with the improved operating characteristics of poly-phase motors. The high, uniform starting torques with reduced starting currents lend such motors to heavy duty starting requirements. These motors are generally offered on motors rated five horsepower and above.



All three of the above mentioned motors have a minimum of moving parts. The starting switch, which cuts out the starting windings when the motor attains 75% of its rated speed, is the only moving part. Starting switches have given some trouble under adverse operating conditions. Recent improvement in these switches by enclosing the contacts and redesigning of the switch now make this unit much more reliable and less subject to failure even under unfavourable conditions.

Repulsion Start—Induction Run Motors

These motors have the highest starting torque, with reduced starting currents, of all single phase motors. This characteristic lends such motors to high starting loads where the motor comes quickly up to its rated speed even under the high torque load. Such motors are somewhat more complicated than those previously mentioned. They have more moving or rubbing parts and are more expensive. They are recommended for machines which must be started under full load.

MOTORS FOR FARM USE

The following table gives the recommended size and type of motor for farm use:—

Machine	H.P.	Motor Type
Washing Machine	1/6 to 1/4	Split Phase
Cream Separator	1/4 to 1/3	Capacitor
Churn	1/4	Split Phase
Small Concrete Mixer	1/4 to 1/2	Capacitor
Farm Shop	1/3	Capacitor
Farming Mill	1/4	Split Phase
Corn Sheller	1/4	Capacitor
Fruit or Egg Grader	1/4	Capacitor or Split Phase
Grindstone	1/4	Capacitor or Split Phase
Meat Grinder	1/4	Capacitor
Pump Jack	1/2	Capacitor
Small Feed Grinder	1/2 to 1	Capacitor
Silo Filling	5 to 7 1/2	Cap. Start—Capacitor run or Repulsion—Induction

Machines designed for hand power operation may be driven by a 1/4 horsepower motor.

Motors, one horsepower and larger may cause an overload condition on some of the light rural distribution

lines. It would, therefore, be advisable to consult the power supplier before purchase and installation of these larger power units, to determine if such loads may be adequately carried.

Wiring

Inadequate wiring may cause too great a voltage drop in the line, resulting in overheating of motors and loss of power. Operating motors at reduced voltage is probably the greatest cause of motor failure. Of course, the answer is to have adequate wiring installed. The electrician or electrical contractor is able to advise on this point.

Protection

Farm loads on electric motors will vary widely, being sometimes under the rated horsepower, and sometimes over. The electric motor will carry an overload for a short time — this is one feature which particularly lends their application to farm use. This does not mean that a motor should be subjected to a continuous overload (if it is it will probably burn out). But short period overloads may be safely carried if motor protection is provided. The line fuses themselves will not provide protection because they are fused to carry the starting currents which may be from 3 to 7 times the safe motor current.

Protection in the form of thermal relays or delayed action fuses should be installed to prevent the motor from overheating. These disconnect the motor from the power source when a given motor temperature has been exceeded.

All electric motors will heat up when they are in operation. The main danger is in overheating when carrying an overload or when they are running on reduced voltage. A rule of thumb to follow here is if you can hold your hand on the motor and it is not uncomfortably hot then the motor is not too hot. If the motor is too hot to hold your hand against then it is operating at a dangerously high temperature and should be disconnected from the line.

New Developments

A combination of better design in proportions, better materials, better manufacturing processes and the establishment of standards to cover the critical performance characteristics of motors has produced a more reliable, smaller and more compact electric motor.

Improvements in the insulating materials, in the silicon steels of the magnetic circuits, in the cooling systems by redirecting the cooling air, in starting switches (previously mentioned) and in capacitors have produced a more efficient, smaller sized, and more reliable electric motor which the farmer might now use to even greater advantage, in his power problems.

In the fractional horsepower sizes, the trend has been almost entirely from the repulsion types to the capacitor type motor. Motors, 1 to 3 h.p. have largely changed to capacitor type and there are some manufacturers that have changed over to the capacitor type motor on 5 h.p. and above.

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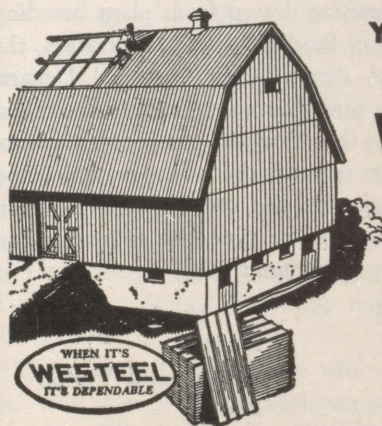


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The Canadian Forage Seeds Project

What it Means to Farmers

FOR MANY years now farmers have been aware of grain varieties, many using those best adapted to their climatic and soil conditions. Plant breeders have brought out many new superior varieties for special purposes and with inbred resistance to disease. Until recently, however, there have been few distinct varieties of forage seed. Farmers have had to depend on ordinary commercial seed rather than strains or varieties known to be adapted to their conditions and superior in performance.

Plant breeders of course have worked on improving grasses and clovers. They have developed a number of improved varieties too, but, in the process of multiplying the seed for general use, many of them have been lost. There is a reason for this failure.

Unlike wheat, barley, and oats which are self-pollinated, practically all the forages are open pollinated. This means that if you grow two different strains of grass, or legume, side by side they will cross-breed either by wind or insects. The identity of the new variety is soon lost. Thus to produce forage seeds of improved varieties, the seed crops have to be grown in isolation from ordinary kinds. To solve this problem, the Canadian Forage Seeds Project was organized in 1952.

How the C.F.S.P. Works

A co-ordinating committee drawn from plant breeding institutions, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, the Canada Department of Agriculture, Provincial Departments of Agriculture, and the seed trade, determines overall policy and fosters the objectives of the organization.

The committee chooses varieties that are to be multiplied in the project and works out the details for production and inspection. At the present time the following improved forage crops are being multiplied.

Species or Kind	Varieties
Red Clover	Lasalle
Alfalfa	Grimm and Vernal
Sweet Clover	Erector
Timothy	Climax and Medon
Crested Wheat	Summit

In time new and better forage crops will be bred and tested. They too will be included in the project for multiplication when approved by the committee. For the present they are concentrating on the above varieties which have proven to be far superior to commercial kinds now sold.

Red Clover and Timothy

Considerable quantities of certified Lasalle red clover and Climax timothy will be available to farmers this spring. When the Project was started a good deal of pedigreed stock of these varieties was on hand. Multi-

plication therefore has been more rapid than with the other five forage varieties in the process of multiplication. As these two forage species, red clover and timothy, are of such importance in Quebec Agriculture it will be of interest to point out some of the main advantage of the varieties now available.

Lasalle Red Clover

The variety Lasalle is what is known as a "blended" variety. It is made up of equal parts of the foundation stock of the two varieties Ottawa Red and Dollard. These two varieties were produced respectively by the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa and by the Agronomy Department at Macdonald College. The two parental varieties have a very similar background and both are 'double-cut' strains. The Ottawa strain has some resistance to Spermotonia disease while Dollard, in addition to being slightly later than Ottawa, has a distinct resistance to Northern Anthracnose disease.

The two parents have equal winter hardiness and both are superior in this respect to all other varieties tested. The two parents tend to complement one another and the committee considered it wise to mix the two varieties under the name Lasalle.

Climax Timothy

Climax Timothy was developed by the Forage Plants Division at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa. It is a tall growing, upright and relatively fine-stemmed variety. The leaves are abundant and carried high on the stems. It is about seven days later than ordinary commercial timothy and is more rust resistant. It yields from 10 to 15 percent more hay or pasture than ordinary timothy. Unlike ordinary kinds, it recovers quickly and gives exceptionally good aftermath.

The aim of the Project is to provide, first of all, for the full requirements of the Canadian market with each of the chosen varieties. Once this point is reached, consideration may be given to exports, if there is demand for the seed.

The price of certified seed of Lasalle red clover and Climax timothy is likely to be slightly higher than the general seeds of commerce. However, this pedigreed seed represents something much higher in value, and may be expected to result in much better forage crops on the farm.

Because the improved varieties of forages readily cross breed with ordinary kinds, their superiority may soon be lost if seed is saved under usual farm conditions. To be sure of superior performance, certified seed must be purchased.

— Summarized from the publication
 "The Canadian Forage Seeds Project"
 Canada Department of Agriculture.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

We Should Grow More Grain

Quebec is a long way from being self sufficient in grain production, says Andre Auger, Chief of the Field Husbandry Service. Proof of this statement is given by the figures for imports which, averaged for the past 10 years, amount to 15,696,000 bushels of oats and 12,283,000 bushels of barley a year. Quebec's oat, barley and mixed grain production has averaged in the same period 44,313,900 bushels, with variations year by year from 30,500,000 to 57,500,000 bushels. Production in 1955 was just below 39,000,000 bushels.

Basing his calculations on the average yield for the past 10 years, Mr. Auger estimates that we would either have to grow a million more acres of these crops, or increase the yield per acre by 17 bushels to bring it up to 44 instead of about 27 bushels per acre as it is now.

Neither of these methods seems practicable. To get another million acres into production means an average of $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres more on every farm; and on the average farm in Quebec only about 12 acres are used for grain now. And to increase yield per acre by 17 bushels does not seem possible either, taking into account the many poor farms where yields are very low. But even if we can't overcome the deficit entirely, there are ways and means by which it can be reduced.

Averages are not satisfactory things to use, of course, but it is estimated, taking into account the number of farms in Quebec and the cost of purchased grain, that it costs \$208 per farm to buy this grain from outside the province. Mr. Auger suggests that half this amount

should be invested in fertilizer and lime as a first step in increasing yields. As another, he suggests improving pastures; many of them have become worn out and are badly in need of rejuvenating. With the same amount of feed grown on a smaller area of improved pastures that can be grown on the poor ones, there would be land available for more grain crops.

Fertilization Not The Only Answer

The kind of seed that is sown to produce a crop is a very important one; and here Quebec farmers in general have a long way to go. We have made surveys to find out what kind of seed grain our farmers are sowing, and the results are most disturbing. Of 5,141 samples of seed grain taken at random in 16 counties, less than one quarter could grade No. 1 seed grade; and what is still more serious, *more than half should have been rejected as unfit for seed.*

Weed seed mixed with the grain is one of the principal causes for this poor record. And the reason for this is that seed grain is taken from crops grown on the farm and put into the soil the next spring without ever being cleaned, or else the cleaning is very badly done. It is quite true that weed seeds mixed in with the grain seed don't change the quality of the good seed; but if there are enough weed seeds the rate of seeding of the grain can be affected, which will reduce the stand. And weeds growing in the crop use moisture that the grain has to do without, use plant food, crowd the grain and shade it from the light. The result is a small crop of poor quality.

There are a lot of farmers who use feed grain as seed, and this is a practice which cannot be condemned too strongly. This grain will germinate poorly, and is bound to contain a high percentage of weeds. The fanning mill will take out the weed seeds, but feed grain, which is a mixture of different varieties, many of which are not adapted to growing conditions in Quebec, will never produce a good crop.

Variety Important

Even if a supply of seed grain has good germination, and is pure as to variety and clean, it still won't be satisfactory unless it is of a variety that is adapted to the district where it is to grow. And that is why the Western seed grains which are always mixed varieties, won't do for seed here, no matter how perfectly they are cleaned before being planted.



Three recognized seed grades are available of all varieties; Registered, Certified, Commercial, the latter of which may be No. 1, No. 2 or No. 3 quality. Registered seed comes from a crop which has been inspected in the field, and is sold in sealed bags, properly labelled as to kind, variety, and the registration number.

Certified seed has been grown from registered seed, has been inspected in the field for purity and trueness to variety. It also is sold in sealed bags labelled "certified seed."

Commercial seed has not been inspected before harvest, but all seed merchants selling this seed are required to have samples tested by the Plant Products Division which issues certificates of grades. In other words, registered and certified seed has been checked while growing in the field, and the resulting crop has been tested by the Plant Products Division. Commercial seed is tested after it has been received by the seed merchant for re-sale. In the first two categories the seed is guaranteed by the Department of Agriculture; in the latter, by the seller.

Half The Seed We Use Is Not Worth Sowing

What type of thinking is it that lets Quebec farmers sow the kind of seed they do? The Provincial Seed Committee held a meeting in Montreal last month, and faced some disquieting facts about the quality of seed that is being put into the ground on Quebec farms.

The condition is not confined to any one part of the province: at the meeting were agronomes, technicians and seed producers from all parts of the province, and from them all came the same comments: 50% of seed used in Quebec grades No. 3, not suitable for seeding. This figure is not a guess, but comes from a number of checks made at various points in the province at seeding time; and the result of using this kind of seed is that farmers get small crops of poor quality grain.

The Committee made several recommendations which, if put into effect, could improve the situation. An intensive campaign among farmers to awaken them to the necessity of using good seed if they hope to get a reasonable crop, was one of the first suggestions made. It was thought that some premium should be offered to encourage production of better grades of seed. A lot of dirty seed is being used, and it might be possible to organize some sort of course for those who work in seed cleaning plants, or anyone who cleans seed, to show them how to get good results. It was also suggested that it would be a good move if provincial seed analysis laboratories be established in Quebec. Chemical weed control should be pushed in Quebec; the necessary experiments should be carried out, and means should be found to pass all possible information about this technique on to the farmers. As a final recommendation, the Committee suggested that farmers should be urged to use better varieties.

Champlain County Will Be Beautiful

In the last issue of the *Journal* we reported on the success of the five-year plan for farm improvement in Champlain County. And now these energetic people have come up with another scheme — a five-year programme of farm and home beautification, in which the moving spirits are the women of the county.

Presidents and secretaries of the clubs of the Union Catholique Feminine from all fourteen parishes of the county met with agronomer Louis Baribeau in March who convinced them that it would not be such a very hard task to transform their home surroundings with careful planting and painting. "Get rid of the old lilac trees and the old apple trees that are cluttering up your yards," he told them. "Make a clean-up to get rid of the junk that is lying around all over the place — plant a lawn — put in some flower beds — paint the house a bright colour; it doesn't cost any more than gray or black. Put in some ornamental shrubs and trees and if possible make an attractive driveway up to the house from the road."

The ladies were so taken with the idea that then and there they drew up a scheme of operations that can be put into effect during the next five years. The first year will be devoted to a general tidying up of the property, painting or white washing wherever it is needed, and preparing the soil for later planting of lawns around the house. The second year the lawn is to be put in. In the third year comes the planting of trees, shrubs, and in the fourth year flower beds are to be set out. In the fifth year public buildings get attention; municipal halls, schools, church grounds and cemeteries are to be cleaned and improved.

All this is to take the form of a contest, and already there is assurance of at least \$600 for prize money. Committees will be set up in each parish to encourage the residents to take part in the programme, and it is expected that local merchants and others will come forward with offers of additional prizes.

In a brief submitted to the Gordon Commission by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture it is predicted that by 1980 there will be so many people in Canada that there will no longer be any problem of farm surpluses, and the home market will absorb the whole Canadian production of beef, poultry, oats and barley. Only in wheat and pork will there be any surplus for export.

And so that the home market can be supplied, it is estimated that there must be an increase of 78% in production of meat, 80% more evaporated milk, 73% more cheese, 68% more eggs and 54% more milk. Consumption of wheat flour, butter and potatoes is expected to decrease.

The brief also predicts that 15,000,000 acres in the northern part of the Prairie Provinces will be brought into production if present trends continue.

Forum On Beef

What place does beef breeding have in farm operations in Quebec? This was the main question discussed at Three Rivers last month at a series of study days organized by the Corporation des Agronomes, Three Rivers-Nicolet and Eastern Townships branches. Speakers at the various sessions included Paul Sylvestre of the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa; Adrien Morin of the Meat Packers Council; Dr. Ernest Mercier of Lennoxville; Prof. Charles Gagne of Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere and Roland Lesperance of the Quebec Department.

The conclusions reached may be summarized as follows:

1. For some time yet, dairy cattle breeding will be the most important line of livestock work in this province.
2. Beef cattle breeding is a paying proposition on large farms where particular attention to pastures and to the growing of green feed can be paid.
3. Beef cattle can be an interesting proposition on smaller farms, where the revenue from beef is not the main source of income.
4. Animal per animal, a dairy cow is a better source of income than a beef animal.
5. There is no great difference in value between the various breeds of beef cattle; all can be profitable. What is important is the way they are handled.
6. Raising of pure bred beef cattle is best done by a small group of top flight breeders.
7. Cross breeding between beef and dairy type cattle is not recommended, as a general practice; though it may be a satisfactory practice in the hands of the occasional expert.
8. Feeders are well advised to make a careful study of market trends before buying steers for feeding.
9. Any farmer planning to go into beef is urged to first get in touch with his county agronomer and the provincial or federal beef fieldmen, who will be able to give him valuable advice and help.

Scientists To Meet In Montreal

Entomologists from all over the world will meet in Montreal in August for a ten-day series of discussions which will review the progress made in controlling destructive pests in agriculture, manufactured food products, forestry, human welfare, and other fields. This will be the tenth such gathering, and this is the first time the Congress has been held in Canada. It will meet at McGill University and the University of Montreal under the patronage of the Governor General; the national host organization is the Entomological Society of Canada. Serving on the honorary committee are Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture, J. G. Taggart, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. K. W. Neatby, Director of the Federal Department of Agriculture's Science Service. On the committee representing Quebec are Hon. Laurent Barre, Minister of Agriculture and Hon. J. S. Bourque, Minister of Lands and Forests.

Insects, according to the best available information, destroy about one tenth of the world's supply of food and fiber. In Canada the yearly loss due to livestock and field crop insects is valued at some \$312,000,000. The need for improving modern control methods is very real and any steps that will lead to a reduction in these losses must be encouraged.

Canadian entomologists have done a great deal to reduce losses caused by insect pests. In the livestock industry, for example, they have advanced the use of insecticides in many ways during the past ten years. The control of cattle warbles, for instance, has been promoted on a community basis with the co-operation of the provinces, and improved timing and methods of application have been developed. Excellent controls have been devised for horn flies and lice on beef and dairy cattle. Control of sheep ked by spraying and dusting instead of dipping has been developed and control of ticks and the prevention of tick-borne diseases in livestock has been accomplished. During the past year malathion has been proved better than anything previously used to control lice and mites of poultry.

These advances in the control of insect pests of livestock mean dollars in the pockets of growers and consumers alike. American workers estimate that on the average, \$52.00 is returned for every dollar spent in insect control. On this basis, Canadian livestock men save more than \$67,000,000 every year by carrying out recommended chemical control measures against insect pests.

Canadian entomologists have also played an important part in reducing crop losses. In Alberta, treatment of 296,000 acres for grasshopper control cost \$50,000, but it save a crop worth \$6,000,000 in 1951 — a return of 120 to 1 on the investment. Seed treatments against wireworms in Alberta in 1953 resulted in an increase in production of some 5 million bushels of grain. It is estimated that the prairie wheat-growing regions alone have benefited by more than \$100,000,000 from the work of government agricultural scientists, many of them entomologists.

Noteworthy advances have been made in the field of insect control in recent years, but a great deal still remains to be achieved. This 1956 Congress will mean a great deal to technical men engaged in all fields of applied entomology, and leading representatives from government services, universities, and industrial and commercial organizations will attend. Leading world scientists will have a chance to exchange their personal views on important problems, and of judging the results of entomological research, teaching achievements, and the latest methods of controlling destructive pests. Such an important public event will mark a milestone of scientific endeavour. Its influence will be reflected in a greatly improved service in pest control in agriculture, forestry, industry, and the Canadian economy in general.

Holsteins On The March

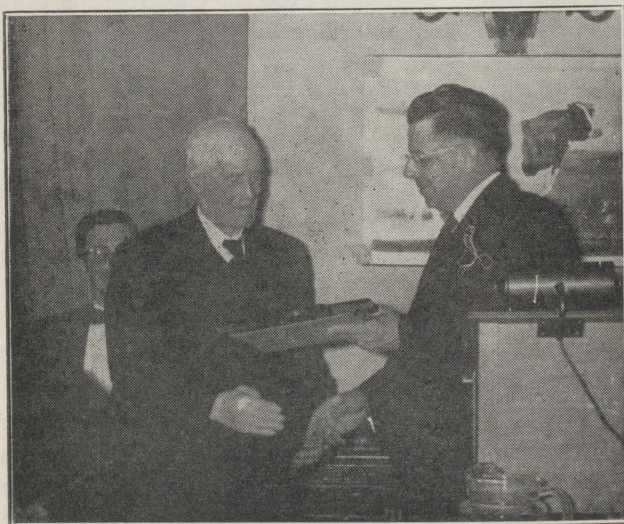
"The export market is strong at present, but today's buyers, American and others, are looking for high quality cows, both in type and in production, and the day is past when breeders could sell any kind of cattle at any price. The progress of the Holstein breed in Canada is tied in closely with the export market. At the present time our most important customer, the American farmers, are operating under a national plan to improve the health of their herds, and it is likely that within five years only breeders whose herds have been vaccinated and are certified free of brucellosis will be able to export to the United States."

So says Hermas Lajoie, Secretary of the Quebec Branch of the Holstein-Friesian Association, in presenting his report at the twenty first meeting of the Branch held in Montreal on March 12th.

The Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada, with a membership of 12,832, is the largest of its kind in the British Empire, and during the year members registered 73,500 animals and sold 53,956. Quebec transfers were 4,846 and registrations 7,515, and 117 new members joined the Branch. Both transfers and registrations showed a slight drop from the previous year, which may be attributed to lack of vaccination of young calves in the one case, and to the result of changes in regulations concerning R.O.P. and the new rules governing selective registration for bulls.

However, the general business of the Branch is flourishing. Good advertising came from the display arranged at the National Salon of Agriculture; 116 breeders exhibited 772 head at the fairs at Quebec, Ormstown, Lachute, St. Hyacinthe, Three Rivers and Sherbrooke, and 10 Black and White Days brought out 104 exhibitors and 983 head. No provincial field day was held in 1955, but

Master Breeder Honoured



Ernest Croteau

there will be one for sure in 1956, on the last Thursday in July, either in the Bois Francs area or near Montreal.

Type classification was done for 378 breeders during 1955 and 38 of these were having their herd classified for the first time. 2,621 females were graded and 155 bulls were inspected, which is an increase of 981 head typed during the year, and a very encouraging development.

New Fieldman Appointed

An announcement of interest was that the National Association has increased its grant by over \$5000 to permit the employment of a second fieldman for Quebec. Mr. Pierre Leonard, now in his final year of the B.S.A. course at Oka, will assume the new post on May 15th. Mr. Leonard, a top flight student, is bilingual, and his appointment will ease the burden now being carried by Mr. Lajoie and will permit the organization to be of still more service to its members in this province. It was also announced that Prof. A. R. Ness, who will retire from the staff of Macdonald College this year, will be employed full time as a type classifier starting this July.

Programme for 1956

Outlining in a general way what the Association hopes to accomplish during the coming year, it was announced that an effort would be made to have the fieldman visit every breeder who has joined the branch since 1951, which means no less than 579 visits. With the appointment of Prof. Ness and with the help of a classifier from Ontario, it is hoped to push the type classification programme during the summer in an attempt to cover the province in three months starting in July and leaving August, the month of exhibitions, out of the calendar. Members of the executive will do their utmost to help county agronomes and livestock instructors to place pure-bred heifers throughout the province, and the local clubs are asked to organize at least one barn meeting in their territories during the year. Another judges conference will be arranged, Black and White Days will be held wherever possible and publicity in favour of dairy products will be given special attention. Also, an intense campaign will be waged to get breeders to have their herds certified free of brucellosis and their calves vaccinated.

Awards of Merit

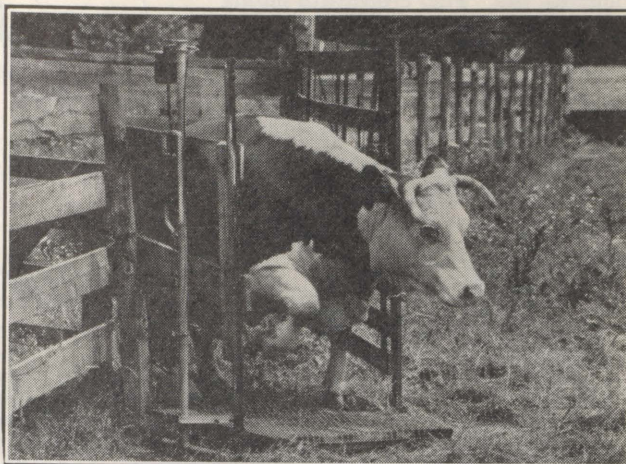
Master Breeder shields, the highest award of merit the Association can make, were presented to Ernest Croteau, St. Paul de Chester, and to Lucien Blanchette, La Presentation. Mr. Croteau, whose father started with Holsteins in 1887, bought his first pure-bred cow in 1907, and this was the beginning of his programme of breeding which has given 9 Very Good bulls, 17 Very Good and 34 Good Plus cows. All the cows are qualified and registered and have made at least 110% of the breed class average for

both fat and milk production. In honouring Mr. Croteau the Association recognizes the merit of a Quebec breeder who has always done his utmost to improve his farm and his livestock.

Mr. Blanchette began Holstein breeding in 1912 with a young bull and a heifer calf and one cow. Convinced that herd improvement comes from the use of good sires, he bought Korndyke Segis Copia from Raymondale Farm in 1916, and a few years later he acquired Het Loo Sir Pietje Inka from Donat Giard. These two were followed by Pietje Wayne and Jack Senie, Macdonald Chieftan, and finally Eglantiers Rag Apple Leader, a son of Montvic Emperor Ajax. His herd went on R.O.P. in 1925 and 19 cows of his herd have produced more than 100,000 pounds of milk. Fancy Inka de la Presentation gave 203,846 pounds of milk and 6,873 pounds of fat. Mr. Blanchette has raised 12 Very Good bulls, 12 Very Good cows and 38 Good Plus cows.

Philippe Pepin of Victoriaville was elected president for the coming term to succeed Harold Wilson, with Russell MacDonald of Huntingdon as vice-president. Other members of the executive comprise the presidents or their alternates of each of the local clubs and they were

elected as a matter of form. Also on the board of directors are the three delegates to the National Association. Hermas Lajoie will, of course, continue in his present post.



The manufacturers of CRAG fly repellent claim that in tests made by Dr. W. N. Bruce of the Illinois Natural History Survey, this automatic treadle sprayer gave from 75% to 97% control of horseflies. When the cow steps on the treadle, she sprays herself with the insecticide. The 97% control was achieved when the cows had to make at least three round trips across the treadle each day.

Toward Better Canning Crops

During one of the worst snowstorms of the winter, some one hundred representatives of canning concerns in Quebec, large and small, met at the Botanical Gardens in Montreal last month to discuss their industry and ways and means of improving their products. The Provincial Division of Horticulture was host to the two-day conference and the general chairman was Jean Joubert of St. Vincent de Paul, with W. H. Perron, J. H. Lavoie and P. P. Bertrand presiding at some of the sessions.

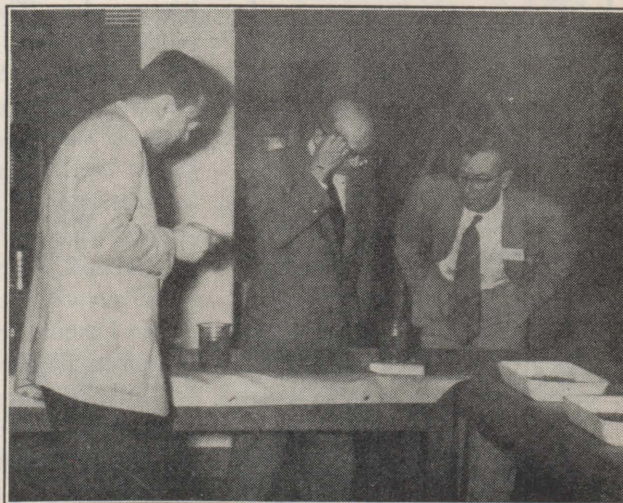
The conference followed the pattern of talks followed by discussion. Of the Department of Agriculture staff, Fernand Loranger explained the reasons for sterilization, dealing with bacteria that could be expected in the pack and showing how the various types could be controlled. Jean David and J. O. Vandal reported on trials conducted on varieties and cultural methods for canning tomatoes. It appears that two varieties, Sioux and Quebec 59, are highly recommendable, being both early and high producers. Details of varieties, and cultural methods for growing beans, tomatoes, peas and corn were described by Gilbert Scott, Director of Extension for the Associated Seed Growers, New Haven, Conn., A. N. L. Butler of the Vineland Experiment Station in Ontario, Henri Rondot of Ste. Martine and Emile Cote of St. Denis. Jacques Laliberte of the Experimental Farm at l'Assomption also dealt with tomato growing, in the Montreal area.

Paul Bertrand, fieldman for the American Can Company, dealt at length with the mechanical details of sterilization of the pack, and C. H. Chisholm described the proper installation of retort equipment for the pro-

cessing of canned foods. Mr. Lavoie's Division supplied statistics on the production, imports and consumption of Quebec fruit and vegetables, both fresh and canned.

Members at the conference were given a chance to inspect samples of canned products of various kinds, taken at random from stocks throughout the province and graded after being opened. This "cutting bee", as it is termed, gives the processors a chance to see, from the point of view of the purchaser, how the goods look as they are opened in the home ready for the table.

The conference came to the opinion that much more research should be done in Quebec in a search for the best adapted varieties of all vegetables for canning purposes.



Examining the product at the cutting bee.

Dear Readers:

Mother nature is beginning to come to life. The crows are filling the air with their cawing and occasionally a twittering of other birds can be heard.

Ruby is raising a different kind of house-plant. A jack-in-the-pulpit grew up and blossomed in one of her plant boxes, knowing by some remote way what time of the year to put in an appearance. The plants are beginning to blossom again in spite of George keeping them well watered. I sowed a new kind of tomato, Labrador. The celery is showing its pale yellow leaves.

I've been painting the kitchen. The ivory covered the old paint very well but when I started to apply the green it had no more colour to it than the ivory so then I had to mix my own paint. It came out a beautiful turquoise so now I have the modern look, too. It is a shade that absorbs the brilliant sunshine that comes in the bay window when March winds and snow aren't playing havoc with

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the weather. The girls are delighted with the colour and helped apply it one week-end. We wouldn't advise anyone to paint in cold weather as we had to have the upstairs windows open and occasionally opened the outside door to get rid of the paint fumes which were overpowering in the closed room. We got the job done anyway and I won't be painting when I should be planting the garden as sometimes happens.

Farm Forum season is drawing to a close. The new constitution, car, Livestock-Highway and hired-man Insurance; pulp-wood price and co-

operative buying of fertilizer are under discussion. Another thing we talk about is the pie and ice-cream that was on the menu for Monday night. It was a perfect combination. Maybe next month I'll be explaining what takes place at the supper planned for the last Forum night.

While reading about humus this winter I came across an article on barn-yard manure. It informed me that the worth of manure is more valuable as humus than fertilizer as most of the fertility is lost by the way we handle it. The boss leaves it in one huge pile until the spring thaw is

over when he spreads some but always argues that he wants some to put on the new seeding in the fall. He prefers fall spreading of manure because it leaves better roots and more plant food stored in the roots for early spring growth. According to what information I can get this is a good policy if the manure is well filled with straw or sawdust to hold the fertility. If the base could be concrete to keep the seepage from destroying the fertility it would add much to the manure. A cover could be used but is not necessary as the manure needs some moisture to keep it from drying out. This may be why manure cellars are disappearing in this area.

Fresh spread manure is advisable in warmer climates but is not recommended for here though I see it is being done this winter. It does bring up discussion on its value when it reaches the plant roots. I think by the amount of snow there is it will end up down in the pasture by the time the spring freshets are gone. The manure of highest quality on test was that where peat moss had been used for bedding.

Is there a Leadership course being planned anywhere in the province? I hope there is and that Farm Folks will take the opportunity of attending or sending some one. Why do I say this? It is because I have seen the benefits derived from the Leadership Course held here. Good members have become community leaders. Your community may be missing out on something special by not having a couple of members attend. If hesitant to accept office they need your support and the confidence in themselves they will gain by these courses. They will return anxious to make farm life a better way of living and with the formula of how to do it.

I suppose you are anxiously waiting for news of who wins the Maple Leaf emblem by the Maple Contest Quebec is having with New York and other States. We are hoping for Quebec's victory. I'll take you up on the challenge of who makes better syrup, your county or here, if the snow ever melts so we can get the buckets below the branches.

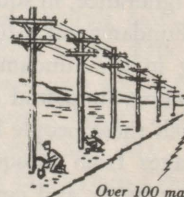
As ever,

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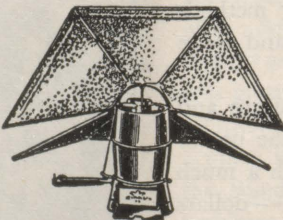


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THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

OUR UNESCO STORY

by E. C. Ossington

HAVE YOU ever heard the saying that a woman can be easily talked into buying anything, even shoelaces for barefoot natives? Perhaps this is a tribute to our generosity but is more likely an aspersion cast on our business ability or seeming lack of it. It is true that our generous hearts have been known to rule our heads and we have donated to causes which are not worthy of our generosity, but we are generally quite astute.

However, Q.W.I. members must be particularly generous for we gave over \$40,000 to various charities last year. Why then, are we lagging in our UNESCO Gift Scheme which has been chosen by F.W.I.C. as a National Project? The other provinces have responded generously.

Probably it would be a good idea to tell again what UNESCO is—what are its aims and accomplishments. The word UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. It is a specialized agency of the UN and is pledged to bring the light of knowledge to more than a billion people who can neither read or write. The UN Charter states that "Wars begin in the minds of men. It is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". UNESCO founders believe that the sharing of knowledge is essential to World Peace.

One-third of all UNESCO funds is being spent on a programme termed Fundamental Education. This means that teachers are being sent out to places where people are living in darkest ignorance, in squalor, poverty and starvation. The term Fundamental Education sums up a special kind of teaching in the fundamentals of daily living—health, food, farming, industrial skills and literacy. They endeavour to teach these people better health habits, how to rid their villages from mosquitoes, why they should boil their drinking water and cover their food from flies. They are taught better farming and gardening methods so that they can have more food, how to read and write and finally industrial skills.

A billion people is quite a large class to educate and the need for skilled teachers is acute but with the use of films, radio and sound recordings they can reach a much larger audience, but these things cost money—dollars which their country doesn't have. People who have been made apathetic and listless by poverty and disease are slow to show interest but results are already apparent.

Most of the money donated by our Institutes through the Province has been earmarked for Ceylon where already the work of the Lanka Mahila Samiti (which is their

name for Women's Institutes) has done much to raise the standard of living amongst the natives. They have house to house health campaigns, DDT sprayings, home gardens and village crafts. Through education the native women have been taught to weave and knit and revive almost forgotten crafts. The products of their gardens and handicrafts are sold through their headquarters sales office and the natives are encouraged to save this money. This work is now being undertaken by the women of India too. The UNESCO donations for Ceylon will be used to equip as many native villages as possible with nursery and canning equipment, stoves and sewing machines.

Sixty-four nations share in this UNESCO scheme and help has been sent to both Europe and Asia. Ontario raised over \$7,000 for UNESCO and all other provinces have reported. According to our treasurer's last report we had donated \$85. We had hoped we might raise \$1,000 before next June. A woman, so it is said, can make a salad, a hat, or a quarrel out of next to nothing. Perhaps we can turn \$85 into \$850 before next June 1st, which should be our deadline.

The 8th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World will be held in Ceylon next December when we hope Q.W.I. will be represented. The delegates will probably be taken on planned tours of the Island where they will be shown the rice paddies, the native villages and the rubber plantations. Lady de Soysa of Colombo, who is Area Vice-President, and who has devoted her life to the uplifting of the women of her country, has a motto which we could well remember when we think of UNESCO—"God has greatly blessed me and I must pass it on".



Members of Rupert W.I. visit the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, during the week of the "Mum Show."

The Month With The W.I.

The month of annual meetings! Busy events, with stories of activities accomplished and plans for those to come, officers and convenors elected to lead the way. May success crown all efforts.

Reports were late—not to be wondered at in that stormy season. Many were still to come in when the deadline date arrived. You'll be there next time, if the report was started on its way, but do make every effort, please, to mail the "green form" to your County Publicity Convenor the day after your meeting.

Argenteuil: *Arundel's* Scholarship Certificate was won this year by Margaret Gusborn, the presentation made by the 1st vice-president, Mrs. E. Bulley on Education Night. The president, Mrs. G. Cooke, presented the annual school prizes at this time. *Brownsburg* held their annual Pot-Luck Supper. Greetings were brought by Mrs. M. Crosby, County President; Branch President of the Canadian Legion, Mrs. B. Erlow; and Mrs. J. A. Donaldson, 1st Vice-President of the Red Cross. Several members attended the Salon of Agriculture, Montreal. Donations of \$5 each were given to the Girl Guides and the Boy Scouts. *Jerusalem-Bethany* donated \$10 to the Red Cross. *Morin Heights* gave tea towels to the school cafeteria. *Pioneer* has changed their meeting date to the first Tuesday of every month. (A help with reports). A shower of pantry and kitchen utensils was given a member who lost her home by fire.

Brome: *Abercorn* reports only the annual meeting, as does *Austin*. *Sutton* held a card party and each member paid \$1 instead of having the usual food sale.

Bonaventure: *Black Cape* had a talk on the satisfactory result of the Salk Vaccine in Quebec, by Mrs. R. H. Campbell. The school principal, Mr. Doddridge, was present to discuss the projector which the W.I. is helping to purchase for the school. The sum of \$160 was brought in as talent money, each member using her own particular talent to raise the money in one way or another. *Grand Cascapedia* held a quilting party, everyone trying their hand at this group project. The sum of \$66 was made at a "Pot-Luck" concert. *Matapedia* marked Health Week with sending health material to the local schools and a discussion on the pasteurizing of the local milk supply; posters and streamers were displayed in the window of the Friendly Room. Garden seeds were ordered for a Community Fair project. A sing-song, character reading by lip stick and an apron display were enjoyed. *Port Daniel* had an exchange of recipes and donated \$25 to the local schools (Protestant and Catholic). Papers prepared by the Convenors of Home Economics and Welfare & Health were read and cotton for the Cancer Society is to be collected. School prizes are to be given for the greatest general improvement during the year. *Restigouche* also ordered garden seeds. A branch history is being prepared.



Members of the F.W.I.C. Board attend the dedication of the Picnic Nook. This is in the International Peace Garden and was erected as a memorial to Mrs. Watt.

Chat-Huntingdon: *Dundee's* report deals only with the annual meeting. *Franklin Centre* held another "500" party. *Hemmingford* is sponsoring a Singer Sewing Machine course. One dollar per member was voted to the Service Fund. *Howick* had a paper on Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, read by Mrs. Wm. Hamilton. The public speaking contest (an annual county project) was held with 24 contestants. *Ormstown* heard an article on Civil Defence by the County president, Mrs. Ward Rember.

Compton: *East Angus* entertained the teachers by holding a card party. Knitted squares were brought to the meeting. *Sawyerville* reports that Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Robinson will give the April broadcast, the topic Junior Institutes. The School Fair prize list has been drawn up. A committee was formed to work on broadcasting brief, and a course in cooking has been held. Donations made: \$10 to Service Fund, \$5 to Red Cross, \$20 Film Council membership. *Scotstown* had Mrs. F. Bennett of Canterbury to give a talk on Ceylon. A donation of \$12 was given the school lunch project and \$21 raised by scrabble and bolivia parties.

Gatineau: *Aylmer East* voted \$100 to the Scholarship Fund. Representatives were appointed to the County and Provincial Conventions. *Lower Eardley* held a discussion on the year's work and Mrs. Watson told of program planning at the Leadership Course. A donation was made to the Red Cross. *Rupert* will celebrate their 30th anniversary with a supper and dance. Knitting and sewing was done for Save the Children Fund and a paper was given on the value and uses of skim milk by Mrs. H. Johnston. A cake contest was held. *Wakefield* has received a purse in appreciation for helping with the Canvass for the Blind, won by Mrs. W. Bouett. At *Wright* three members were presented with gifts for perfect attendance (one member, Miss Inez Derby has had seven years perfect attendance). A mystery box sale netted \$1.55 and the sum of \$10 was donated to the Red Cross. The branch is sponsoring the Red Cross Drive.

Jacques Cartier: *Ste. Annes* heard a talk, "Why



A busy corner at the millinery course for the Ste. Annes W.I.

Libraries" by Miss June Wilson of the Travelling Libraries. Money was sent to the Children's Library. A demonstration was held on home cooking and cookies, with recipes, and the hats made at short course were displayed, about 40 hats in all. Returns from pictures taken at meetings, and sold, will be donated to the Q.W.I. Service Fund.

Pontiac: Clarendon donated \$10 to the Central Hospital Auxiliary Board, and gave canned fruit and juice, vegetables, butter, eggs, babies' knitted articles and 40 dishtowels to the local hospital. Elmside had a discussion on ways and means of making money for the W.I. and held a demonstration on making button-holes. Shawville attended "Open House" at Pontiac Dry Cleaners and saw slides on dry cleaning. They entertained Bristol and Stark's Corner Institutes. A donation of \$10 was voted school hot lunches for destitute children. Stark's Corners donated \$15 to the Oxygen Tent fund and \$5 to the Central Auxiliary Hospital Board. They also hemmed 20 sheets and 128 diapers for the local hospital. Wyman had a word building contest and readings on "Origin of Valentine's Day" and "Afternoon Nappers".

Quebec: Valcartier discussed the semi-annual board meeting. Mrs. R. Johnston gave a talk on Health and donations were given to the Red Cross, \$25, and to UNESCO, \$10.

Richmond: Cleveland donated \$10 towards school lunches for needy children at the St. Francis High School. Dennison's Mills gave \$10 to the same lunch fund and \$2 to the Red Cross. Gore had a word-building contest on the name "St. Patrick". Two members received perfect attendance prizes, with the losing attendance team furnishing an Irish Stew Supper. Melbourne Ridge had cookie contest with the cookies sent later to the Wales Home. A card party was held with proceeds amounting to \$18.76. Garden seeds were ordered for the school fair. A parcel of linen was sent to the Cancer Society and a box of "paper-backs" to troops in Germany. Richmond Hill's rollcall was a crazy quilt block. A discussion was held on "How much lunch to be served at meetings" (What was the decision?) Shipton is continuing dances

for teen-agers in their community. Here, also, seeds have been ordered for the school fair. Spooner Pond has completed a quilt. Donations include \$10 for school lunches and \$5 for prizes at Richmond Fair. Windsor Mills had a food sale, realizing \$18.70.

Stanstead: Beebe held a discussion on the Tweedsmuir Competition and appointed delegates to County and Provincial Conventions. Hatley Centre reports a busy annual meeting. Stanstead North used the Retarded Children project as the topic for the County broadcast over WIKE, Newport. A TV set was temporarily installed in the school in order that the students could see the Opening of Parliament. Nine prizes will be given in the school, one in each grade for Citizenship, and \$10 was voted the Red Cross. Tomifobia welcomed a new member and donated a quilt to a fire victim. Way's Mills had an apron contest, aprons sold later. Donations were: \$5 to UNESCO, \$10 Home and School Association at Ayer's Cliff, and \$10 to Ayer's Cliff Legion to help bring the war memorial up to date.

Vaudreuil: Cavagnal observed a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Tyson Robinson, founder of the Cavagnal Branch, who passed away on Jan. 29th in her 86th year. Several of the members attended the funeral and a wreath was sent. A rummage sale netted \$65.

OFFICE HAPPENINGS

Far Away Places

Did you know there are Women's Institutes in Greenland? In the last "News Flash" from the ACWW Office, London, is the story of a visit made by an ACWW Vice-President, Mrs. Dahlerup-Petersen, Denmark, to this icy land. There are 12 branches, one in each settlement. These were formed in 1948 and meetings are held regularly during the winter; everyone is too busy in the short summer months. The visitor had great admiration for the courage of these women and spoke warmly of their kindness, hospitality and readiness to help.



Ste. Annes Branch 1956 Officers. Standing, left to right: Second vice-president, Mrs. A. Harnott; Treasurer, Mrs. G. Sanders; First vice-president, Mrs. E. Wilson; Secretary, Mrs. R. Smith. Seated: Past president, Mrs. J. Howe; President, Mrs. Jas. Houston.

In Iceland there are 206 groups with a membership of 12,000. The Faroes, the last place visited, are just making a start with this work.

From there we go to Malaya. Here the W.I. is now sufficiently organized to apply for membership in the ACWW. News had also come to the London office from rural women's groups existing, just beginning, or hoping to begin, in India, Italy, Egypt, Samoa, Thailand, Assam, Afghanistan and Bangkok. The report adds "Exciting places but no longer strange now that we know more about them. With their help we may navigate our ship to a new and better world."

Ceylon Conference

Plans are going on apace for the coming ACWW Triennial in Ceylon. Five topics for Round Table discussions have been selected from the many sent in. These are: 1. Conservation of Natural Resources; 2. Ways and means of spreading information about United Nations and its Specialized Agencies; 3. Means of preserving and sharing the best of our national cultures; 4. Contribution of Rural Women's Organizations towards their country's development; 5. Economic Production and the problem of over-population.

Talking About Music

Carleton County Institutes, in New Brunswick, are sponsoring a Music Festival. It is planned to make this an annual affair and hope the project will go on to become province-wide.

Nova Scotia has selected the two songs that will be practised by the branches and sung at the Convention. Both are in "Joyful Singing" a book familiar to Q.W.I. members who have been in Mrs. MacFarlane's class at "Facts! Fingers! Fun!" These are "The Happy Plowman" and "Vreneli". The "Hymn of All Nations", also familiar to us here, will be used too, music is in the same book, as you know.

From Alberta, where W.I. choirs have long been a project, comes this good advice, "Don't choose only your best singers for your choirs. The idea is to get everyone singing and enjoying it. They will learn to love it, if they don't already, and there is always a spirit of good will and 'one-ness' where there is music".

Outside The W.I.

Women and a career was the subject discussed by Dr. Aileen Ross, Assistant Professor of Sociology, McGill University, at the last meeting of the Montreal Council of Women. Dr. Ross had spent a year in India doing research on urban Indian families. She stated, as a rule, the married working woman seemed to be more generally accepted in that country — always a question of economic necessity when it occurs.

Plans for the Canadian Association of Consumers membership drive were discussed at another meeting. The objective is to double the present figure of 20,000 individual members, in an effort to make the CAC more truly representative of the "Canadian shopping women". If every branch convenor of Home Economics would become a member our representation would be tripled.

At present we have about 30 such members and five branches with group memberships.

Facts! Fingers! Fun!

Applications are coming in for this week, May 28th to June 1st. Registrations are again limited to 40 so don't delay. These are accepted on usual basis of county membership.

Another date to remember is Convention; Board meeting Tuesday, June 26, Convention itself, June 27-29.

Unesco Gift Coupons

The list this month: Valcartier \$10
Way's Mills \$ 5

See Mrs Ossington's comment on the amount given away last year by the Institutes (article in this issue). Who was it said, that if we would give one-tenth of what goes to outside charities to support our own project that \$1000 objective could so easily have been met?

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"Johnny's Magic Toothbrush" Something New In Filmstrips

Schools and community groups interested in promoting dental health among pre-school children will be interested in the latest filmstrip sponsored by the Department of National Health and Welfare.

The filmstrip uses a new technique developed by Norman McLaren of the National Film Board and consists of etching directly on the film and colouring the lines. The result is a startling image against a black background. Because other detail is eliminated, what you see concentrates on the point each frame wants to make.



THE COLLEGE PAGE

The Macdonald Clan

Notes and News of Staff Members and Former Students

The Beginning Of The End

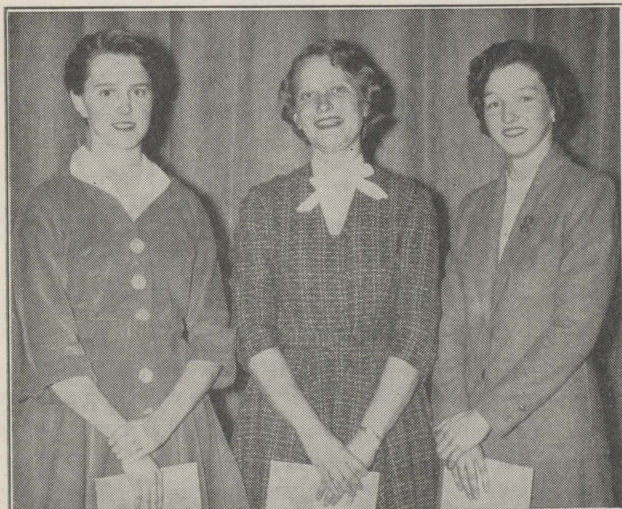
At Macdonald, the last students to arrive in the fall are the first to leave in the spring, and on March 28th the boys of the Diploma Course held their graduation exercises in conjunction with the Annual Assembly. There were twenty-three students in the graduating class, and one other is to receive the Advanced Diploma later in the year; he writes his examinations with the B.Sc. (Agr.) students.

Most of the students, of course, come from Quebec Province; but we had in this year's class three from Ontario and one each from Egypt, Chile, Germany, and the United States. They were a good crowd; they worked hard, took their share of student activities, and while we are glad they have completed the course successfully, we are sorry to see them go.

Leading the class in the final examinations was Rolf Gasser of Pike River and he was awarded the medal of the Quebec Minister of Agriculture. A special prize, offered by the Quebec Department of Agriculture, is

given to the graduate who, by vote of his fellow students, has made the greatest contribution to the class and to the College during the course. John Standish of Rougemont, Que., received this award this year.

The Annual Assembly, held each year to give Principal James an opportunity to come to the College to speak to all students and staff members, went on as usual. Prizes and medals won during the 1954-55 session were presented to thirty-five individuals, the presentations being made, in many cases, by representatives of the clubs and other organizations which sponsor the awards. This is the last time that the Assembly will be held so late; in future years it will be held early in November, just after registration of the Diploma Course students. This will give us the chance to make these awards reasonably soon after they have been earned; this year we have the odd spectacle of a student graduating from the Diploma Course being presented with a medal which he won for his work in the first year.

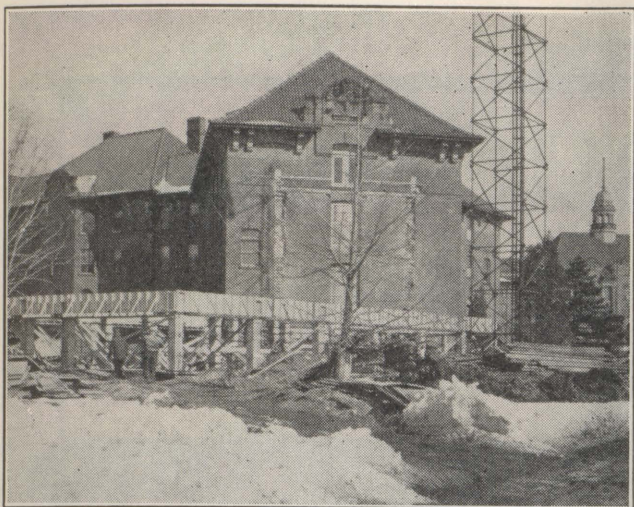


These are all University Scholars; the highest academic award the University can make. Right to left, Miss Isobel Allen, Agriculture, Miss Anne Drobysh, Household Science, Miss Carol Steels, School for Teachers.



John Standish of Rougemont, Que., winner of the special prize offered by the Department of Agriculture, receiving his award from Mr. Jean Charles Magnan, Director of Agricultural Education.

Extending Brittain Hall



Behind the Men's Residence (Brittain Hall) concrete is being poured for the first extension to the residence since the Annex was built early in the war years. Like all universities and colleges, Macdonald expects that before very many years student enrollment will be vastly increased, and this is a step in preparation for the time when we will have many more students than we now have.

Even now, only the fact that many students commute from Montreal makes it possible for us to supply residence accommodation to those that need it; well over one hundred students do not live here, but either live at home in Montreal or room in Ste. Annes. And another factor complicating the situation is the fact that there are many more men students taking the Teaching courses than there used to be. Not many years ago an enrollment of eight or ten men was normal; this year we have over fifty.

The extension being built is going up on the south-east corner of the residence at the rear, extending toward the river. It will be a three-storey building with space for eighteen students on each floor, and will be ready for use this fall.

What's in the Bag?

In the vast drama of feeding the ever-increasing population of the world, the bag of fertilizer has undoubtedly taken over the leading role. From it come carefully prepared plant nutrients which, in the last half century, have more than doubled the per-acre yield of many of our edible plants. And behind that bag of fertilizer are years of intensive research by a corps of highly skilled chemists and chemical engineers, and millions of dollars worth of plant machinery and raw materials.

What's in the bag?

The standard mixed fertilizer contains the three essential elements most necessary for the production of

healthy plants. They are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium (or potash). Eighty per cent of the air around us is made up of nitrogen but this atmospheric nitrogen cannot be used directly by growing plants. Combinations with other elements is required to convert it into a usable state. One of the century's crowning scientific achievements was the development of chemical process for fixing nitrogen in such forms. Anhydrous ammonia, made by combining nitrogen from the air with hydrogen from several sources, is the starting point for many nitrogenous fertilizers.

Plants suffering from nitrogen starvation show it up in yellowing leaves and stunted growth. While it takes phosphorus and potash to make stiff straw and stalks, without nitrogen there would be no stalks.

Potassium (potash) is needed by plants to build chlorophyll which they must have to use the carbon, hydrogen and oxygen from the air. Without potassium they can't make starches, sugars and cellulose. Plants with enough minerals will use less water, especially during a drought, and will resist some diseases more readily.

Most of the potash used by Canadian fertilizer manufacturers comes from the United States or Europe where it is mined in the form of potash salts. A large project is now underway to extract potash from deep beds under the wheat fields of Saskatchewan.

Phosphorus is primarily derived from phosphate rock which is mined from large deposits in Florida. By treating ground phosphate rock with Canadian-produced sulphuric acid, we get superphosphate, considered the most important source of phosphate since the beginning of the fertilizer industry more than 100 years ago.

Plants can grow only as fast as there is phosphorus to make new cells. Some of the amino acids, building blocks of proteins, cannot be made without phosphorus. Plants require phosphorus to build healthy root systems, to form flower parts and the pollen to fertilize them. It is needed to help the plant utilize the nitrogen it requires. Phosphorus deficiency is usually evidenced by stunted growth, poor root systems and a purplish hue on the leaves.

The numbers on a fertilizer bag such as 10-10-10 or 6-12-12 indicate the grade ratio of the fertilizer which means the ratio between the percentage content of the three primary plant nutrients. Thus, a 100-pound bag of 10-10-10 contains 10 pounds of nitrogen, 10 pounds of available phosphate and 10 pounds of potash. The remaining 70 pounds would consist principally of calcium, sulphur and other important plant foods with which these primary nutrients are associated to form chemical compounds usable as fertilizer.

The correct grade required can be determined readily by a soil analysis.



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